



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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ICE DEPORTS EX-ARMY INTELLIGENCE SPECIALIST *Jordanian loses U.S. citizenship after conviction for lying on naturalization application*

PHOENIX – U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced today that a Jordanian man who received training to be an intelligence specialist for the U.S. Army is back in his native country after being stripped of his U.S. citizenship and deported.

Osama Musa Al-Ferahin was returned to Jordan last week on board a commercial flight escorted by ICE detention and removal officers, capping a two-year legal fight by ICE. The investigation and legal proceedings leading to Al-Ferahin's deportation began as a referral from the local Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF).

In September 2004, following a multi-agency federal investigation, Al-Ferahin was convicted in U.S. District Court in Tucson of lying on his naturalization application and his citizenship was revoked. The evidence showed that the 34-year-old Jordanian failed to disclose on his naturalization application that he was still married to a Spanish national when he wed the U.S. citizen woman in 1998 who enabled him to gain legal permanent residence.

Three years after becoming a citizen, Al-Ferahin, who speaks three languages including Arabic and Spanish, enlisted in the U.S. Army. While stationed at Ft. Huachuca, Al-Ferahin began undergoing training to become an intelligence specialist.

"This man perpetrated a series of lies that enabled him to gain entry into the United States, then U.S. citizenship, and finally access to training in sensitive intelligence gathering techniques," said Patricia Vroom, Chief Counsel for ICE in Arizona. "We don't know what Al-Ferahin's long-term plans may have been, but his case shows how ICE is using all of its tools to target those whose schemes undermine the integrity of our nation's legal immigration system and potentially put our nation at risk."

After serving approximately one year in prison on the citizenship conviction, Al-Ferahin was remanded to ICE custody and placed in immigration proceedings. During the proceedings, an immigration judge in Florence, Arizona held that Al-Ferahin's misrepresentation concerning his first marriage was not "material," and dismissed the case. ICE appealed the decision to the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Board sided with ICE, remanding the case to the immigration court for further proceedings. In October, Al-Ferahin abandoned his legal fight to remain in the United States and requested a final order of removal to Jordan. Al-Ferahin's criminal conviction for fraud remains on appeal before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

ICE